

# Immigration Alert



## Re-Entry Visas For Dependents Of Expatriates

The Nigerian Immigration Service recently announced, via circular dated 11th February 2015, the abolition of re-entry visas for Expatriates who are in possession of the Combined Expatriate Residency Permit and Aliens Card (CERPAC). The abolition effectively annulled the requirement for the stamping of re-entry visas to enable such Expatriates exit and re-enter the country.

However, the circular is silent on the position of Dependents of Expatriates who have been placed on an Expatriate Quota and have been issued valid CERPAC Cards. At the recent Roundtable on Immigration and Transfer of Technology hosted by DCSL Corporate Services Limited on 23rd April 2015 in Abuja, a representative of the Nigerian Immigration Service provided clarification. Speaking at the event, the Special Assistant to the Comptroller General of Immigration on Operations, Mr. Solomon, E. Legjack, a Deputy Comptroller of Immigration stated that the following rules apply as a fall-out of the aforesaid Circular of 11 February 2015.

1. Expatriates in possession of CERPAC would continue to travel in and out of the country without the requirement to obtain re-entry visas either in Nigeria or at any Nigerian High Commission or Embassy abroad.
2. Dependents of such Expatriates who are 18 years and above would be required to purchase CERPACs upon arrival in Nigeria or renewal thereof, but would not be required to process re-entry visas.

3. Infant dependents who are precluded from purchasing CERPAC, but who hitherto were required to process re-entry visas would no longer be required to process re-entry visas to enable them exit or re-enter the country.

4. In place of the requirement for re-entry visas for infant dependents, endorsements on their International Passports by the Nigerian Immigration Services would be sufficient proof of legal residence and permit to exit or re-enter the country

However, the right to exit and re-enter the country would continue to be contingent on the validity of the Principal's CERPAC.

### Who We Are

DCSL Corporate Services Limited (DCSL) is a private limited liability company. We provide corporate, company secretarial, immigration and governance services to corporate bodies, individuals, government agencies and business organizations. We operate from our Head Office in Lagos, with operational branches in Abuja and Port-Harcourt.

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